

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T USNATO 1039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, OR, XF, XG, XI

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING SUEZ

REF: STATE 041756

1. ON FEBRUARY 25, POLADS CONTINUED PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF IS DRAFT ON IMPLICATIONS OF SUEZ REOPENING. DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTEL MOST HELPFUL AND MISSION IS PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY ACCORDINGLY. POLADS WILL MEET AGAIN ON FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 4 TO CONTINUE DRAFTING PROCESS.

2. COMMENT: ALL ALLIES, INCLUDING FRANCE, ARE PARTICIPATING WITH CONSIDERABLE ENTTHUSIAMSM IN THIS CONCULTATION FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE THE NATO TREATY AREA. IN OUR JUDGEMENT TIME IS NOW RIGHT FOR THE U.S. TO INJECT INTO THIS STUDY IMPORTANT NEW MATERIAL. WE ARE THINKING PARTICULARLY OF MATERIAL FROM WHICH ALLIES COULD DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE DIRECT IMPLICATIONS WHICH WILL FLOW SUEZ REOPENING FOR INDIVIDUAL ALLIES THEMSELVES AND FOR THE ALLIANCE MILITARY POSTURE. AS A FEELER, U.S. REP AT FEBRUARY 25 POLADS (LEDOGAR) OBSERVED THAT THUS FAR STUDY HAS FAILED TO MENTION HOW INCREASED USE OF SEA LANES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ESPECIALLY THE EASTERN PORTION, WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ALLIED MILITARY SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS. SEVERAL
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ALLIES AGREED THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE COMMENTED UPON IN THE SUEZ STUDY. U.S. REP INDICATED THIS AS BUT ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW THE IS DRAFT THUS FAR AVOIDS MANY BASIC QUESTIONS AS TO DIRECT IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO DEFENSE POSTURE OF REOPENING SUEZ.

ALLIES AGREED TO LOOK AGAIN AT PAPER IN LIGHT OF THIS COMMENT.

3. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AGAIN LOOKING AT THE EXISTING DRAFT FROM THE ANGLE OF IMPORTANT NEW MATERIAL WHICH MIGHT NOW BE ADDED ON. WE ARE THINKING NOT OF EXTENSIVE REWRITE EFFORTS BUT OF ONE OR TWO SUCCINCT PARAGRAPHS WHICH COULD CALL THE ATTENTION OF OUR ALLIES TO SOME IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO DEFENSE POSTURE THEY MAY NOT OTHERWISE BE FOCUSING UPON. SUCH NEW MATERIAL WILL AT THE SAME TIME HELP COMMITTEE PRODUCE A MORE BALANCED AND THEREFORE MORE USEFUL ALLIANCE STUDY.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
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